

MAR 1952 --

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 SECURITY INFORMATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT

CD NO.

STAT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Economic - Agriculture, cotton, livestock

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. 9 Feb 1953

WHERE PUBLISHED Ashkhabad

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE PUBLISHED 26 Sep 1952

LANGUAGE Russian

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Turkmenskaya Iskra.

REPORT OF TURKMEN SSR AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS
TO REPUBLIC PARTY CONGRESS

The report on 25 September 1952 by S. Babayev, Secretary, TsK KP(b) of Turkmenistan, to the 11th Congress of the KP(b) of Turkmenistan contained the following information on the progress of agriculture in the republic:

During the period since the Tenth Congress, the Turkmen party organization has directed its energies toward solution of the primary tasks in the sphere of agriculture -- raising the yield of agricultural crops, increasing the number of head of collectivized livestock, and increasing livestock productivity.

The sown area devoted to cotton increased by 31 percent as compared with 1949; the cotton yield rose by 28 percent during the last 2 years; and the cotton harvest increased commensurately with the increase in the sown area and the rise in yield. In 1951, 59 percent more raw cotton was picked than in 1949. The cotton procurement plan was fulfilled 104.9 percent in 1950 and 103.3 percent in 1951. Chardzhouskaya and Maryyskaya oblasts achieved the highest indexes in the development of cotton growing.

The number of kolkhozes with high yields increased considerably. In 1951, 37 percent of all cotton-growing kolkhozes had yields exceeding 20 quintals per hectare; in 1949, only 17 percent had such yields.

The total income of kolkhozes in 1951 exceeded the income received in 1949 by 80 percent. Three fourths of all kolkhozes in the republic received income in excess of one million rubles. In 1951, 218.4 million rubles were assigned to indivisible funds; this figure was almost double the amount assigned to indivisible funds in 1949.

Monetary income of kolkhoz workers has also risen considerably. The average value of the workday has risen more than 50 percent during the last 2 years.

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Despite these successes in cotton growing, there are serious shortcomings in this sphere. One of the most serious is the presence in the republic of a large number of rayons and kolkhozes which do not fulfill their cotton procurement plans and which produce low yields. Of 39 cotton-growing rayons, 16 did not fulfill their plans in 1950 and 15 failed to fulfill their plans in 1951. Although the republic as a whole exceeded the cotton procurement plan in 1951, more than 50 percent of the cotton-growing kolkhozes did not fulfill their obligations to the state. Such a situation testifies to unsatisfactory supervision of kolkhozes by party organizations. It is necessary to extend serious aid to lagging kolkhozes, strengthen their supervisory staffs, properly organize their work, raise labor discipline of the kolkhoz workers, and improve MTS service to these kolkhozes.

Although agrotechniques in cotton growing have improved in recent years, the struggle to introduce advanced techniques and to eliminate violations of the proper methods of growing cotton must be intensified. When the plans for plowing of winter fallow are fulfilled 60-65 percent at best, and plowing must be done in the spring, other spring work is disrupted; in some cases, cotton is sown exclusively on land plowed in spring.

Sowing time has a decisive influence on the cotton harvest. In 1952, sowing was completed on 4 May; this was the earliest completion date in recent years. But even 4 May is a very late date to complete sowing; it should be finished by 5 - 10 April in Maryyskaya and Ashkhabadskaya oblasts and by 15 April in Chardzhouskaya and Tashauzskaya oblasts.

Kolkhozes fail to obtain a large yield of raw cotton because of sparseness of the stand. The average number of plants per hectare in the republic does not exceed two thirds of the norm. Increasing stand density is one method to increase the harvest and this method should be widely adopted. Also, more serious attention must be paid to cultivation of the cotton fields during the entire growing period.

The principal task of the republic party organization during the Fifth Five-Year Plan is fulfillment of party and government directives for an increase in the area sown to cotton and a rise in cotton yield.

The 1952 cotton harvest will assure not only fulfillment of the state plan for cotton procurement but also fulfillment of pledges made in a letter to Stalin. The most pressing task now is to carry out the timely harvesting of cotton and deliver it to the state. The Soviet government has established the following harvest and delivery schedule: 32 percent in September, 58 percent in October, and 10 percent in November.

In 1951 and the first half of 1952, MTS of the republic received 725 new tractors and more than 5,500 other pieces of agricultural equipment. In 1951, average annual output of work per tractor rose 12 percent over 1949; total volume of work performed by MTS rose 34 percent.

In Turkmenistan, cotton growing is dependent on irrigation. During the Fourth Five-Year Plan, 95 million rubles from the republic budget alone were invested in irrigation. There are five mechanized excavation stations in the republic; in 1952, five more will be created. Conversion to the new system of irrigation is proceeding very slowly; the Ministry of Water Resources is not coping with its tasks.

In the sphere of animal husbandry, the work of the party organization was directed toward a further increase in the number of collectivized livestock in kolkhozes and sovkhoses, improvement of livestock quality, and a rise in livestock productivity. In 1950 - 1951, the number of livestock in kolkhozes and

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sovkhozes of the republic increased as follows: cattle 11.2 percent, sheep and goats 16.2, horses 16.3, and camels 17.4 percent. Some increases in livestock have also been realized during the first half of 1952. Established animal husbandry development plans have not been fulfilled due to low birth rates, livestock epidemics, use for local needs, and diversion of kolkhoz livestock. Main reasons for low birth rates, epidemics, and low productivity are the unsatisfactory condition of the fodder, poor care, and inadequate shelter.

A considerable change has taken place in the number of kolkhozes. At present, there are 499 kolkhozes in the republic as compared with 1,352 at the beginning of 1950. Now, there are an average of 209 households per kolkhoz, as compared with 81 households before consolidation; now, each kolkhoz has 382 hectares sown to cotton as compared with 114 hectares before consolidation.

The task of strengthening the kolkhoz chairman's staff of cadres with agricultural specialists having higher and secondary agricultural training is not being fulfilled in the republic.

As in other republics, there is a wide prevalence of kolkhoz charter violations in the Turkmen republic. It is the task of the party organization to wage a relentless struggle against all such violations which result in reduced labor discipline, lower productive activity of kolkhoz workers, and diversion of kolkhoz property.

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